

The Very First (British) Perfin User

by: Charles Jennings, reprinted from, *The Perfins Bulletin*, March 1973, p. 3. Charles Jennings was Perfin Club member #550. He was the author of *The History of British Security Stamps* and was President of the Security Endorsement and Perfin Society of Great Britain. The following article was prepared by Mr. Jennings as the response to a members question.

My answer is restricted to use on postage stamps as dies were prepared by Joseph Sloper for perforating railway tickets and cheques prior to their use for stamps.

There is no doubt that the first die for application to stamps was prepared for Copestake Moore & Company in 1867. Some confusion is caused; however, by Sloper's own records which show T.J.A. as first on his list. This is because at a subsequent date, about 1875, Sloper commenced his register and listed his clients alphabetically and not chronologically. Thus, T.J. Allman is first in his records while Copestake Moore & Company are 20th.

I have seen a penny red with "stars" in upper corners with perfin, but this was undoubtedly due to

(Jennings response continued)

someone using up stocks of these stamps as Sloper's machine had not been invented when these were current.

There remains a possibility, as yet unproved, that one of the concerns for whom Sloper produced dies to cancel cheques may have unofficially used his die at an earlier date to safeguard his stamps.
